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20 July 1951

The Honorable Brien McMahon
Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman

The semi-annual report of the CIA on Soviet atomic development was considered yesterday at a meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Committee. As a result of that meeting the publication of the report has been delayed, and in all probability it will not be published until approximately 1 August.

In its present form the report contains additional comments or dissent by three of the agencies participating in the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee. If these differences were all in the same direction, they would be significant, but they are not. However, I believe that the areas of disagreement between the departments concerned might be narrowed by further meetings and study by the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee.

While I know this delay may cause some inconvenience, I feel that it will result in a better paper which will be of greater value to you and to your Committee.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Walter B. Smith
Director

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